



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back from what I hope was a restful half term!

We started this week with Year 9 Book Look week and during the Year 9 Parents Evening on Thursday evening we collected feedback on the week. Please continue to use the 'Fab & Drab' feedback forms to give us your thoughts on key aspects of the school as well as nominations for staff member of the week.

Thursday evening some of our Year 11 students had the opportunity to visit the Abbey school for a careers evening. This was a very productive and motivational event and the students returned inspired. Please see the photo and write up below.

Our Year 11 students have also started their National Science preparation examinations. These are a very important guide for how well they will do in their final GCSE examinations. Our main hall will remain set up for pre examination preparation going forward. It is vital that all students have the chance to practise in realistic surroundings.

Next week will see some of our final GCSE exams starting and these commence with Food Practical exams; I am very much looking forward to sampling some of this! Finally, on Thursday we have the Year 11 Parents Evening.

On Tuesday we are holding our half termly PTA meeting and it would be great to see some of you come to this meeting and share ideas for fundraising. We also have the very exciting Bronze Duke of Edinburgh presentation on Wednesday and we look forward to a full turnout to see our young people receiving their certificates for all their hard work last year.

Our Student of the week this week is: Ewan , 7R. He was nominated as he was an outstanding Student Ambassador at our recent parents evening. He was so polite and offered lots of help despite being very nervous at first. He even offered to help put the chairs away at the end of the evening.

We also have Freddie Hooper, 9H as he has recently become First Aid trained and helped a Year 7 child who bumped his head out in the playground this week.

Our Staff member of the week is: Mr Smith, comments include: 'Mr Smith is helpful, kind and treats us with respect', 'Mr Smith always listens and helps us even though he is not our teacher', 'For being so helpful to me and believing I can achieve', 'He helps us if we are stuck and gives us a good vibe'.

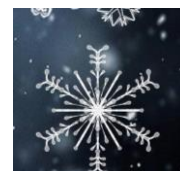
Our motivational saying during next week is: 'A year from now you will wish you had started today!'

Please do remember to encourage students to wrap up warm next week as per my schoolcomms sent earlier today, and please see below.

Jane Coley, Headteacher

Weather Warning

With the sharp drop in the temperature predicted for next week and the possibility of snow we would like to remind students to wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a black coat, scarf and gloves. During this cold period, we will be making indoor provisions for students at break and lunch-time.



We plan to stay open whatever the weather and all staff will try to get to work, but please check the Bracknell Forest website (below) in the event of exceptional heavy snowfall and listen to the local radio stations for alerts. School closures will be communicated by Schoolcomms via text and email, our School website: <http://brakenhale.co.uk/>, Bracknell Forest Council website: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schoolclosures> and Local radio stations – Heart FM and Radio Berkshire

The school will remain open unless you receive a communication of closure. **If we do need to close** you will receive a text message to notify you.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that any changes to your contact details should be emailed to mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk

What's on

Tuesday 27th February

Wednesday 28th February

Thursday 1st March

Saturday 3rd March

PTA Meeting, 7pm

Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening, 6.30pm

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition

Current Vacancies

We have the following exciting opportunities at Brakenhale.
Please see the website for more details.

<http://brakenhale.co.uk/about/vacancies/>

- Science Teacher

Geography News

Year 8s Wonderful Waterfalls Projects.

In Geography Year 8N and 8E have recently been set an independent homework project to produce a 3D model of waterfall or a factfile about a famous waterfall. The entries were submitted on the last day of half term and every project handed in has been exceptional!



We have everything from leaves, sticks, moulded glue, expanding foam, cardboard boxes, paper mache and even a fish tank pump being made use of to produce these outstanding pieces of work. A special mention goes to Jake Miles-Topple who has managed to create a fully working waterfall which pumps water – an excellent display of creativity!

The students have taken great pride, care and effort into making these models. It has been wonderful to see student's keen attitudes towards success and the effort they have put in to go the extra mile in these projects. Well done Year 8!



Miss Byers, Geography Teacher

Brakenhale New Build Project

We need your help to raise £50,000 needed by September 2019!!!!

Everyone at Brakenhale School is getting very excited about the new building and we hope that you are too. Planning permission was granted last week and work will start very soon. If you were not able to view the plans last term, this is what the front of school will look like:



£50k

£10

Each of the three floors will look like this:



And here is our problem.....

Look at the green spaces on the plan. They are empty classrooms!

The funding provided by the government is very tightly regulated and can be used for the building only, not including furniture or equipment. The theory is that we should take with us furniture and equipment from the existing building and we will do so if it is functional. However, much of the furniture is old because the school has not had funding to regularly maintain and/or replace. In addition, the projectors and interactive whiteboards that we currently have in every classroom will not work with the new systems in the new building because technology has advanced considerably since Brakenhale was built in the 1950s, and even in the last decade!

In our December meeting, the governors committed to raising the money needed and we are depending on your support to help us.

I am sure that you can think of ways to raise money and we will support you but just to get your creative juices running, some ideas that have been suggested include gaining sponsorship to run in local marathons, bike rides or other events; pledge auctions, clothing sales, pamper evenings, bingo, cabaret evenings, sponsored slims, etc. Get your friends, relatives, neighbours and colleagues to take part with you.

We know that some of the larger national and global companies that you may work for will match any money that employees are able to raise for charities. Brakenhale is a charity, under the umbrella of the Greenshaw Learning Trust. We will offer incentives to companies that support you/the school in this way with publicity in the school and beyond. We will also invite those of you who are involved in raising £1,000+ to a special opening event and you, with your sons/daughters will be the first to see the new facilities.

There will also be opportunities to sponsor events – starting by sponsoring Mr Thomas (Assistant Headteacher) who is going to run the Stockholm Marathon in May! In addition, you will be able to elect for some retail companies including Amazon, Waitrose and the Co-op to donate to Brakenhale when you shop.

Watch out for regular updates in Parent News. We have a dedicated e-mail address for our fundraising. Please e-mail me on fundraising@brakenhale.co.uk to discuss any ideas that you have.

Karen Roche, Chair of the local governing body

House Updates

Jennetts *Mr Duffy*

A big thank you to all of our entries for last term's logo competition, the winner overall was Marta Contente who produced a fabulous logo, which we will be using from here on in with all things Jennetts.

We had lots of fabulous entries, including a runner up winner for most thoughtful design by Olivia Henley. We have some more certificates to give out as well so look out for those students that have achieved enough house points for a certificate! Our house notice boards will be going up any minute around the school and I hope to be sharing pictures of that with you in the near future; look out for the Jennetts one if you should find yourself in the school!

A huge well done to all of our Jennetts students that performed in the 'School of Rock' musical at the end of last half term; it was a huge success and I hope that those of you that came along had a great time.

Farley *Mr Bell*

It's been great to see the students returning after the half term so refreshed and ready to learn.

Last term we ran our logo competition and selected the winner. There were many great entries, and I'd like to thank everyone who was involved in this. Jasmine Atterton in 8H was selected as the winning design for Farley. Everyone who entered received house points.

The Farley notice board will be going up in the school soon, which will be a great way of sharing events, news and achievements with the school and the Farley members. If you have any ideas about what we can do as a house I'd love to hear your ideas, so please don't hesitate to e-mail me.

Well done to all of the young people involved in the School of Rock performance, and those Year 11s who have been staying behind for period 6 lessons. They are all working so hard and it's clear that they are assets to the school.

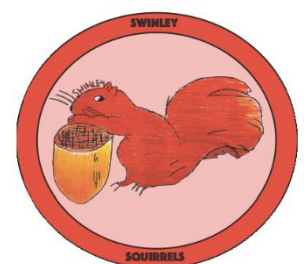
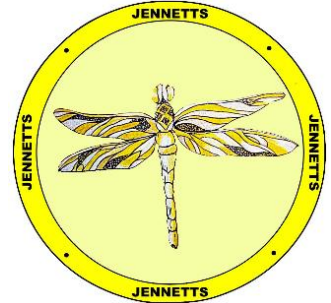
Temple *Miss Haley*

A massive congratulations to Erin Axton for her amazing entry, she was our winner for the Temple house logo competition. The standard of the entries for Temple was incredibly high and I really enjoyed seeing what each student had submitted - overall Temple had the most student submissions and achieved the most house points from the competition. Students Marina Lazic and Sally Tudor also won awards for most creative entries across all of the houses - their work was so beautiful and detailed.

Well done to all the students who performed and supported our musical School of Rock before half term - each student involved helped to make the show a massive success! We are currently counting the number of tickets sold per house so we can reveal which house had the biggest turn out over the two evenings - a big thank you to everyone who came to support and watch.

Swinley *Miss Raby*

What a fantastic half term for Swinley House. Congratulations to Lauren Williams who won the House Logo Competition - as you can see her great design includes our Swinley Squirrel and will soon incorporate our house motto. I have asked all Swinley students to think about what motto we could have that inspires and motivates us, please also encourage your children to email me with their ideas. I presented many certificates and accolades awarded for house points handed out in the end of term assembly, far too numerous to mention but this is what has contributed to Swinley being the overall winners last half term. What happens in lesson is really what matters; working hard day-to-day and producing great work is clearly what our house does best!



Book Look Weeks



Year 9

Thank you to all those parents who responded to our Year 9 Book Look Week survey and fed back on how we are doing. We are pleased to say that almost 98% of you were happy with the quality of work completed by your son/daughter and felt that our marking and feedback is helping your child learn. Maths was the subject most parents felt showed exemplary marking and feedback, closely followed by English.

Year 11 and Year 7

Book Look Week for Year 11 will be taking place next week, and for Year 7 the week after.

During Book Look weeks, exercise books/folders will be sent home with students for parents to see their son/daughter's work and how they are progressing in their subjects. You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's books at the respective parents' evenings where we look forward to your feedback:

Year 11 on Thursday 1st March and Year 7 on Thursday 8th March.

Could we please ask that parents and students ensure that they bring their books back to into school after taking them home.

Mrs G Powell, Assistant Headteacher

Information about Young People and the Law

What happens when young people break the law?

All crimes carry different potential sentences for the person who has committed them. A range of circumstances and considerations are taken into account before a sentence is decided upon.

For young people, how they have broken the law will be assessed and they may find themselves with a caution, be subject to a community order supervised by the Youth Offending Team or spend time in custody, depending on the seriousness of the crime.

Even if a young person doesn't go to court they could receive something called a 'youth caution' which involves having photos and fingerprints taken, parents informed and a written record on file. Higher level 'youth cautions' involve more interaction with the Youth Offending Team and the police. Young people can also be required to follow a 'restorative justice' programme, often involving giving back to the community, as a result of their crime.

It is worth remembering that any record can be permanent and can affect people's college choices, job options and ability to travel in the future.

For more information:

- Citizen's Advice: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/legal-system/young-people-and-the-law/
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk or 0800 1111

Made by: Aran, Danny, Dylan, Fletcher, Jack, John-Joe, Lauren, Lewis, Max, Robbie, Thomas

With special thanks to Northumberland Youth Offending Team and Josie Brookes illustration for their support with the design of the leaflet.

Young people and the law in the UK

Alcohol + Drugs

- It is illegal to sell alcohol to someone under the age of 18 anywhere.
- If you are under the age of 18 and are caught drinking alcohol in a public place you will have your drink confiscated, you will be taken home and a letter will be sent to your home address.
- It is illegal to have, produce, give away or sell drugs (controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act).
- It is illegal to smoke cigarettes under the age of 16.
- It is illegal to smoke cigarettes to anyone, adult or child.
- It is illegal to sell single cigarettes to anyone, adult or child.

Sex + Porn

- Sexual activity under the age of 16, whether gay or straight, is breaking the law. You could be charged with statutory rape or indecent assault.
- It is illegal and a serious criminal offence for an adult or young person to take, hold or share "indecent" photos of anyone under the age of 18.
- Encouraging someone under 16 to look at pornography is sexual abuse.

Racism + Verbal Abuse

- Verbal abuse is using spoken language to threaten, insult, humiliate and shame another person.
- If you bully someone, including online bullying, because of their race, religion, transgender identity or sexual orientation, then it can be seen as a 'hate incident'.
- Threatening someone with physical harm either verbally or by email, text or through body language, is a criminal threat.

Anti Social Behaviour : Community + Vandalism

- Examples of Anti-social behaviour include nuisance and rowdy behaviour, vandalism, graffiti, littering, and fireworks misuse.
- Anyone over the age of 10 can be given a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) if they behave antisocially.
- Getting a CBO means you won't be allowed to do certain things, such as visiting or spending time with known troublemakers.
- Once you are given a CBO it lasts for a set period of time. The maximum length being 3 years.

Theft

- Being caught shoplifting can be a lot more serious than people think.
- If you have been arrested for shoplifting, especially if it's more than once, you may end up with a criminal record.
- This can make it harder to get a job, get into college or travel to certain countries and you may be banned from stores and shopping centres.

Violence

- Common assault is an action that causes a person to fear that he or she is in danger of violent attack. It includes threatening acts, it doesn't have to include the use of force but the offender must have the ability to carry out any threat at the time.
- Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) is when a person deliberately inflicts physical injury on another person. It includes harm to the skin, flesh and bones of the victim plus the victim's organs, nervous system and brain. Although it is considered less serious than Grievous Bodily Harm (see below) even the slightest physical injury such as a minor cut or a bruise can lead to a conviction for ABH.
- Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) is when a person deliberately inflicts serious physical injury on another person.

Science Summer Schools

Science summer schools for Year 9, 10, 11 and 12

Are you a science superstar? Why not apply to attend a FREE summer school at Imperial College London. All of the schools run in July 2018 and will give you a real taste of life at one of the world's best universities! The deadline for all applications is the 5th of March, and some eligibility criteria do apply. Contact Miss Metcalfe for questions and support with your application.

To apply: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/inspired/student-recruitment-and-outreach/schools-and-colleges/students/on-campus-activities/summer-schools/>

Contact: emetcalfe@brakenhale.co.uk

Year 9 Engineering Summer School	Year 9 girls are invited to join us to explore the breadth of engineering education available at Imperial. Working in groups and supported by undergraduate mentors, you will tackle a range of engineering challenges, using your knowledge of maths, physics, chemistry and biology. This course is fully funded by Imperial's Faculty of Engineering. Non-residential	16 - 20 July 2018
Year 10 Insights into Science and Engineering Summer School	Get ready for an action packed four days that lets you explore subjects you already know, including biology, chemistry, physics and maths, in new, exciting ways. Take part in hands-on practicals and workshops in real undergraduate labs with some of Imperial's finest academics and students as try your hand at a number of different disciplines. This programme is fully-funded so eligibility criteria apply. Residential	24 - 27 July 2018
Year 11 Project Skills Summer School	Explore the leap from GCSE science to studying it at A-level in this action-packed programme. Choose to focus on biology, chemistry or physics as you tackle problems in a similar way to university groups, with as much hands-on exposure to labs as you can get. You'll also get to experience university life through a series of social activities. This programme is fully-funded so eligibility criteria apply. Residential	2 - 6 July 2018
Year 12 Engineering Summer School	Get a taste of engineering at university, with the chance to try subjects which you may never have previously considered. Working in subject streams, you'll use the week to tackle challenges within the applicable engineering disciplines, with plenty of support from our undergraduate mentors. This programme is fully-funded so eligibility criteria apply. Residential	10 - 13 July 2018

Biology challenge: open to Year 8, 9 and 10

Biology Challenge

Does your biology knowledge put David Attenborough to shame? Are you interested in representing your school at the Institute of Engineering and Technology, London? Sign up to take part in the Biology Challenge, a national competition for schools. You can win a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate and free membership to the Royal Society of Biology's online hub. For more information or to sign up, contact Miss Metcalfe.

emetcalfe@brakenhale.co.uk

Encouraging an interest in biology beyond the school curriculum Stimulating curiosity about the natural world

Open to all pupils in:

- Y8/Y9/Y10 in England and Wales
- Y8/Y9/Y11 in Northern Ireland, and
- S1/S2/S3 in Scotland

Registration closes: 23rd February 2018
Competition dates: 6th - 26th March 2018

Biology Challenge is an online competition which consists of two 25 minute papers to provide schools with flexibility and maximise participation.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Award Certificates will be posted to schools and top scoring pupils.

The entry fee is only £30 per school for an unlimited number of participants.

Further details and a registration page can be found at: www.rsb.org.uk/challenge

Higher Education and Careers Convention

Students from Brakenhale were invited by the Abbey School in Reading to join in with their Year 11/12 careers and information fair on Thursday this week. 20 of the top UK universities were in attendance, as well as many major UK companies. In addition, there were talks about careers in specific fields such as medicine.

Eight of our Year 11 students took part and had a wonderful time and all reported they received a lot of useful information that will help them in determining their future careers.

Mr H Thomas, Assistant Headteacher



Feedback Initiative

In our efforts to continually improve Brakenhale School for the whole community, we have introduced a new forum where you have the opportunity to provide feedback on the things we get right and where you think we could improve.

We now have a “Fab” and “Drab” box located in our main reception where you can leave your comments (anonymously or with contact details if you would like a response).

Alternatively, you can click on the links below to submit your thoughts electronically. We welcome views from both parents and students so please encourage students to share their views as well.

In addition to the above we have also introduced a “Staff Member of the Week” recognition scheme where you or your students can nominate a member of staff who is exceeding your expectations – once again please use the link below or the box in reception.

Electronic submission: [Fab](#) [Drab](#) [Staff Member of the Week](#)

We would like this to be an ongoing initiative and would encourage you to submit your views and feedback anytime, we look forward to hearing from you regularly. Please see a round up of Fab things below, and I have outlined the progress we are making on Drab items at the beginning of this newsletter.

Ms Coley, Headteacher



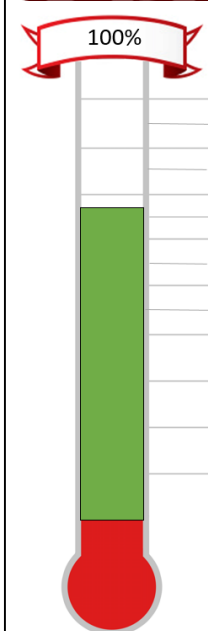
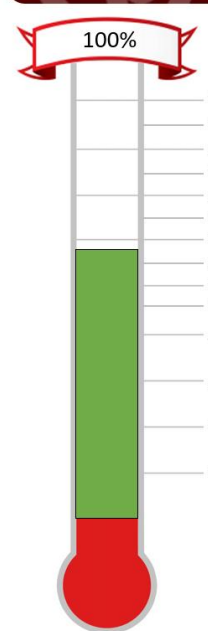
FAB

Round-Up (8th to 16th February)

You think we are doing great at the following things at Brakenhale:

- ✓ My daughter and I really enjoyed last night's performance of 'School of Rock'. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to produce such a great show. The lead actor playing the part of Dewey was amazing and performed with such energy and talent. The quality of singing and dancing was great too. What really came across was the real joy the cast displayed throughout the show, I thought that was a real reflection of the 'regeneration' of Brakenhale School. Well done to everyone involved.
- ✓ The SSC staff are really supportive.
- ✓ School Trips.
- ✓ The school is very helpful and caring towards everyone. When in need of assistance in lessons I feel like I can rely on the teachers to help me out.
- ✓ The Golden tickets are a fabulous initiative - my daughter is keeping every one earned on her pinboard which shows me how much pride she has in the school and their standards.
- ✓ Show my homework is a fantastic resource!

Attendance

This Year so far		Last Week												
<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Attendance Matters.... Week Ending 9th February Year to Date </div>  <table style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Year 7 Attendance: 96.0% ↓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Year 8 Attendance: 94.5% ↓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Year 9 Attendance: 94.0% ↓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Year 10 Attendance: 93.5% =</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Year 11 Attendance: 93.8% ↓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Brakenhale Attendance: 94.4% ↓ </td> </tr> </table>	Year 7 Attendance: 96.0% ↓	Year 8 Attendance: 94.5% ↓	Year 9 Attendance: 94.0% ↓	Year 10 Attendance: 93.5% =	Year 11 Attendance: 93.8% ↓	Brakenhale Attendance: 94.4% ↓	<p>Last week was our worst week for attendance this academic year, but this week is looking much better!</p> <p>A large percentage of calls this week have been for headaches. Please can I encourage you to give some medication to your son or daughter and send them in to school. The distraction of learning is often enough for them to make it through the day. Should they still be unwell our medical co-ordinator will facilitate sending them home.</p>	<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Attendance Matters.... Week Ending 9th February Last Week </div>  <table style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Year 7 Attendance: 90.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Year 8 Attendance: 92.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Year 9 Attendance: 88.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Year 10 Attendance: 92.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Year 11 Attendance: 89.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Brakenhale Attendance: 90.8% </td> </tr> </table>	Year 7 Attendance: 90.8%	Year 8 Attendance: 92.1%	Year 9 Attendance: 88.4%	Year 10 Attendance: 92.7%	Year 11 Attendance: 89.5%	Brakenhale Attendance: 90.8%
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As always, thank you for your continued support. Please, if you are having any problems encouraging your child to school, do get in touch and we will support you in any way we can. Should you need support or help with any other issues that are affecting attendance then please do not hesitate to get in touch by telephone on 01344 465050 or by email on schoolattendance@brakenhale.co.uk

Mrs Evans, Attendance Office

Brakenhale PTA School Lottery

Thank you to everyone who has signed up, so far we currently have 44 signed up members. The amazing news is that since this has started in March 2017 it has raised £976.80.

We are looking to increase new members each month. if you have not signed up yet now is your chance to do this.

There is a weekly draw in which you could win a prize currently £20 (this increases with the more members we have). Plus you have a weekly chance to win up to £25,000.

Click on the link today and join up: [Support the Brakenhale Lottery](#)

You have to be in it to win it.





JOIN TODAY & YOU COULD WIN A FITBIT!



New Year, New Resolution - Buy a lottery ticket to support our School!

- Join our weekly, online lottery and you could Win a Fitbit this term!
- Our school receives 40% of all ticket sales!
- A **GUARANTEED** cash prize to one of our supporters every week!
- Tickets cost £1 per week!
- Help us raise valuable money to enhance our school this year.

To start supporting, visit:
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

Search for:
Brakenhale

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.
* For more details see the brochure.



Future Diary Dates

Monday 5 th March	Year 7 Book Look Week
Thursday 8 th March	Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4pm
Monday 19 th March	Parent Support Group

Term Dates 2017-18

SPRING TERM 2018

Term dates for students:
 Wednesday 3rd January to Thursday 29th March
 Spring Half Term – Monday 12th to Friday 16th February
 Easter Holiday – Friday 30th March to Friday 13th April

SUMMER TERM 2018

Term dates for students:
 Monday 16th April to Friday 20th July
Inset Day: Monday 23rd July
 Summer Half Term - Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June
 Summer Holiday for students – Monday 23rd July to Tuesday 4th September
(Inset Days: Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September)

Term Dates 2018-19

AUTUMN TERM 2018

Term dates for students:
(Inset Days: Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September)
 Wednesday 5th September to Thursday 20th December
 Autumn Half Term – Monday 22nd to Friday 26th October)
(Inset Day: Friday 21st December)
 Christmas Holiday for students – Friday 21st December to Friday 4th January 2019

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:
<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schooltermsholidaydates>

#challengeforall

Easy Fundraising!

Don't forget to shop through www.easyfundraising.org.uk to effortlessly help raise money for the school!



Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7BA

☎ 01344 423041 ~ 📧 mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk ~ 🌐 www.brakenhale.co.uk

High Expectations and Challenge for All